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Remarks

In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102, or obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-2 and 9 are not anticipated by Sakatani et al.

Claims 1-2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakatani et al. (U. S. Patent 6,172,847 issued January 9, 2001). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 as amended explicitly states that "the turntable is fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft". Claims 2 and 9 have been adapted accordingly.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1- 2, and 9, it is submitted that with regard to claim 1 that Sakatani et al. discloses a drive for storage media in disc form, having a turntable (40) with a bore (defined by 12) in which a motor shaft (1) of a drive motor (10) is located, the diameter of the bore being greater than the diameter of the motor shaft such that there is a gap between a wall of the bore and the motor shaft (peripheral groove 12).

However, the turntable is apparently not fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and

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the motor shaft. In contrast, the gap is used to feed lubricant that is thrown out due to the rotation of the shaft back into a sleeve.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is clearly new over Sakatani et al. In addition, as there is no indication given by Sakatani et al. to fix the turntable to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft, claim 1 as amended is also inventive.

Claims 2 and 9 depend directly from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2 and 9 are also patentable over Sakatani et al.

2. Claims 1-2, 6 and 9-10 are not anticipated by Lee

Claims 1-2, 6 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (U. S. Patent 5,825,746 issued October 20, 1998). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

With regard to claims 1 and 6, Lee discloses a drive (21) for storage media in disc form, having a turntable (23-28) with a bore (central opening of 26) in which a motor shaft (22') of a drive motor (22) is located, the diameter of the bore being greater than the diameter of the motor shaft such that there is a gap between a wall of the bore and the motor shaft (Fig. 6, between 26 and 22').

Contrary to the present invention, the turntable is apparently not fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft. In contrast, the turntable of Lee (central ring 26) is installed so as to be movable by a predetermined distance from the rotating centre of the turntable via a moving means.

Therefore, claims 1 and 6, as amended, are clearly new over Lee. Furthermore, as there is no indication given by Lee to fix the turntable to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft, claim 1 as amended is also inventive.

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Claims 2 and 9-10 depend directly, or indirectly, from claims 1 and 6, respectively. For the same reasons as stated above for claims 1 and 6, claims 2 and 9-10 are also patentable over Lee.

3. Claims 7-8 are not anticipated by Dennison

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dennison (U. S. Patent 880,369 Issued February 25, 1908). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

With regard to claims 7-8, Dennison discloses a method for mounting a turntable with a bore on a motor shaft, it being possible to set an inclination and/or a lateral position of the turntable in relation to the motor shaft, comprising the steps of:

- positioning the motor shaft in a defined position,
- introducing the motor shaft into the bore of the turntable,
- adjusting the inclination and/or the lateral position of the turntable in relation to the motor shaft, and
- fixing the motor shaft in the bore of the turntable.

Contrary to the present invention, the turntable is apparently not fixed to said motor shaft by filling a gap between a wall of the bore and the motor shaft with an adhesive or another material. According to the solution disclosed by Dennison, the turntable remains freely tiltable.

Therefore, claims 7-8 as amended are clearly new over Dennison. Dennison expressly teaches away from the present invention as one object is to have the turntable freely tiltable, which is no longer the case when the turntable is fixed to the motor shaft by filling a gap between a wall of the bore and the motor shaft with an adhesive or another material.

Therefore, claims 7-8 as amended are also inventive.

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B. 35 U. S. C. § 103

1. Claim 4 is not unpatentable over Sakatani et al. or Lee in view of Matsushima

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakatani et al. (U. S. Patent 6,172,847 issued January 9, 2001) or Lee (U. S. Patent 5,825,746 issued October 20, 1998) in view of Matsushima (U. S. Patent 6,005,311 issued December 21, 1999). The applicants submit that this claim is not rendered unpatentable by the combination of these references.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, which as amended, explicitly states that "the turntable is fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft".

With regard to the rejection of claim 4, it is submitted that Sakatani et al. discloses a drive for storage media in disc form, having a turntable (40) with a bore (defined by 12) in which a motor shaft (1) of a drive motor (10) is located, the diameter of the bore being greater than the diameter of the motor shaft such that there is a gap between a wall of the bore and the motor shaft (peripheral groove 12).

However, the turntable is apparently not fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft. In contrast, the gap is used to feed lubricant that is thrown out due to the rotation of the shaft back into a sleeve.

Therefore, claim 4 as amended is clearly new over Sakatani et al. In addition, as there is no indication given by Sakatani et al. to fix the turntable to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft, claim 4 as amended is also inventive.

With regard to claim 4, Lee discloses a drive (21) for storage media in disc form, having a turntable (23-28) with a bore (central opening of 26) in which a motor shaft (22') of a drive motor (22) is located, the diameter of the bore being

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greater than the diameter of the motor shaft such that there is a gap between a wall of the bore and the motor shaft (Fig. 6, between 26 and 22').

Contrary to the present invention, the turntable is apparently not fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft. In contrast, the turntable of Lee (central ring 26) is installed so as to be movable by a predetermined distance from the rotating centre of the turntable via a moving means.

Therefore, claim 4, as amended, is clearly new over Lee. Furthermore, as there is no indication given by Lee to fix the turntable to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft, claim 4 as amended is also inventive.

Matsushima only teaches a spindle structured including a conical end in the bore of a turntable. The turntable is apparently not fixed to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft.

Therefore, claim 4, as amended, is clearly new over Matsushima. Furthermore, as there is no indication given by Matsushima to fix the turntable to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft, claim 4 as amended is also inventive.

Since neither, Sakatani et al. or Lee in combination with Matsushima fix the turntable to said motor shaft with an adhesive or another material filled in the gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft, claim 4 as amended is also inventive over the combination of these references.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102, or are rendered obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance.

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Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

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If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring continuation of an adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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